

# SIDS TRAINING

Instructor Guide



## Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

### 1. SIDS: Your Role in a Response Situation.

**A.** Many more children die of SIDS in a year than all who die of cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, child abuse, AIDS, cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy combined .

**B.** What is SIDS?

(1) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a medical term that describes the sudden death of an infant which remains unexplained after all known and possible causes have been carefully ruled out through autopsy, death scene investigation, and review of the medical history.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

## Your Role in a Response Situation

*WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW*

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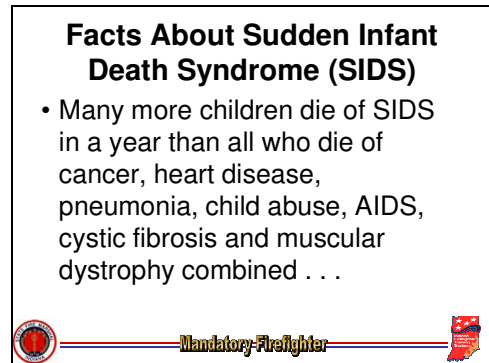
A thumbnail image for slide 13-22. It features the title 'Your Role in a Response Situation' in large black font, with 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome' above it in a smaller font. Below the title is the phrase 'WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW' in red, italicized capital letters. At the bottom, it says 'Mandatory Firefighter' in a stylized font. There are two small images: one of a firefighter on the left and one of a group of people on the right.

Slide 13-22

### Facts About Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

- Many more children die of SIDS in a year than all who die of cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, child abuse, AIDS, cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy combined . . .

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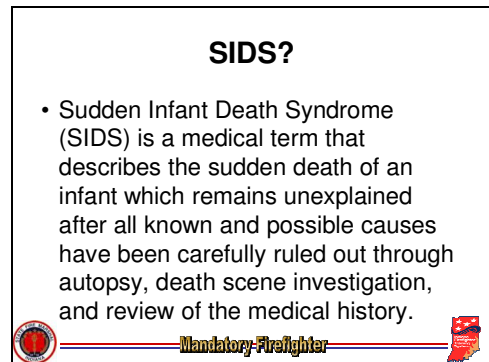
A thumbnail image for slide 13-23. It has the title 'Facts About Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)' in bold black font. Below it is a bullet point stating that more children die of SIDS in a year than all who die of cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, child abuse, AIDS, cystic fibrosis, and muscular dystrophy combined. At the bottom, it says 'Mandatory Firefighter' in a stylized font. There are two small images: one of a firefighter on the left and one of a group of people on the right.

Slide 13-23

### SIDS?

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a medical term that describes the sudden death of an infant which remains unexplained after all known and possible causes have been carefully ruled out through autopsy, death scene investigation, and review of the medical history.

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A thumbnail image for slide 13-24. It has the title 'SIDS?' in bold black font. Below it is a bullet point defining SIDS as a medical term for the sudden death of an infant where all known and possible causes have been ruled out through autopsy, death scene investigation, and review of medical history. At the bottom, it says 'Mandatory Firefighter' in a stylized font. There are two small images: one of a firefighter on the left and one of a group of people on the right.

Slide 13-24



# SIDS Training

(2) SIDS is responsible for more deaths than any other cause in childhood for babies one month to one year of age, claiming 150,000 victims in the United States in this generation alone - 7,000 babies each year -nearly one baby every hour of every day.

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Slide 13-25

(3) Strikes families of all races, ethnic and socioeconomic origins without warning; neither parent nor physician can predict that something is going wrong. In fact, most SIDS victims appear healthy prior to death.

## SIDS?

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Slide 13-26

**C.** What Causes SIDS? No adequate medical explanations for SIDS deaths, current theories include:

- (1) Stress in a normal baby, caused by infection or other factors.
- (2) A birth defect.
- (3) Failure to develop.
- (4) A critical period when all babies are especially vulnerable, such as a time of rapid growth.

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Slide 13-27



# SIDS Training

- (5) Tobacco, cocaine and heroin use by mothers during pregnancy puts the infant at a higher risk for SIDS.
- (6) Infants who sleep on their sides and stomachs have a higher risk of SIDS than babies who sleep on their backs. (Remember to lay the baby BACK to bed)
- (7) Babies born to teenage mothers have a higher risk of SIDS than babies who are born to older mothers.

## What Causes SIDS cont.?

- Tobacco, cocaine and heroin use by mothers during pregnancy puts the infant at a higher risk for SIDS.
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## D. How and why SIDS occurs?

- (1) Many questions but very few answers.
- (2) Scientists are exploring the development and function of the nervous system, the brain, the heart, breathing and sleep patterns, body chemical balances, autopsy findings, and environmental factors.
- (3) SIDS, like many other medical disorders, will eventually have more than one explanation.

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## E. Can SIDS BE Prevented? NO!

## Can SIDS Be Prevented?

**NO!**



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Slide 13-30



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## **F.** Basic Facts about SIDS

- (1) SIDS is a definite medical entity and is the major cause of death in infants after the first month of life. (1 day to 1 year)
- (2) SIDS claims the lives of over 7,000 American babies each year ...nearly one baby every hour of every day.

## Basic Facts about SIDS

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...nearly one baby every hour of every day.



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- (3) Victims appear to be healthy prior to death.
- (4) Cannot be predicted or prevented, even by a physician.
- (5) There appears to be no suffering; death occurs very rapidly, usually during sleep.
- (6) Babies should be placed on firm mattresses with nothing in the crib with them. Soft mattresses are associated with a high risk of SIDS.
- (7) Breast feeding mothers lower the risk of SIDS as the breast milk decreases the occurrence of respiratory infections.

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## **G.** SIDS Is Not:

- (1) Caused by external suffocation.
- (2) Caused by vomiting and choking.
- (3) Contagious.
- (4) The cause pain or suffering in the infant.
- (5) Able to be predicted.
- (6) New.

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Slide 13-33



# SIDS Training

**H.** What should a firefighter do if they respond to an event where a infant has died?

- (1) Notify police
- (2) Notify coroner
- (3) Control access to the room where the death occurred, back ALL extra personnel out.

## SIDS

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Slide 13-34

- (4) Be sensitive to the needs of the parents but realize the parents should not hold the deceased infant.
- (5) Document the response including the scene.

## SIDS

- Be sensitive to the needs of the parents but realize the parents should not hold the deceased infant.
- Document the response including the scene.



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**I.** For More Information

- (1) <http://sids.org/>
- (2) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002533/>

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